ACTION		
AF-5		
RM/R 1	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU 3	INR 5
E 4	P 2	IO
L 3	FBO	AID 20
16A 2		
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA 20	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA 3

RS/AN Zeeny

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

17

aid (us) s Libya 700

RECEIVED ... T OF STATE FOR RM USE ONLY

R

A-107 NO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HANDLING INDICATOR

POL 15-1 Libya

TO : Department of State ED BY Qu Raji DATE 5/6/82

INFO : Athens, Baida, Benghazi

ANALYSIS BRANCH

Post file

1966 SEP 16 PM 4 24

FROM : Amembassy, Tripoli DATE: September 14, 1966

SUBJECT : Former USAID Partially Financed Advisor May Receive GOL Contract as Consultant

REF : Embassy's A-566 of June 15, 1966

ATHENS FOR AC/A

Mr. Thomas G. Thornton served until May, 1966 as a partially financed USAID Advisor in the GOL Ministry of Industry with responsibility for advising on certain government operated industries. He is the subject of the Embassy's Airgram A-566. The Ministry of Industry pleaded with the Council of Ministers for authorization to pay Mr. Thornton some $16,800 in annual salary and allowances, or else at least one government industry, the lime plant, would have to be closed down. The retort of the Council as reported by Abdullah Sikta, Minister of State for Civil Service Affairs, was: It is better to close down the factories than to disturb relations with thousands of Libyan and expatriate employees by special treatment for an American.

The Ministry of Industry then proposed the employment of Mr. Thornton under a consultant's contract at $16,800 in annual salary and allowances. Consultants' contracts are not subject to GOL civil service limitations. Mr. Thornton was extended through June on an emergency basis in the hope that the Council of Ministers would approve a consultant's contract. He took July and August as leave an an extension of the same hope. In early September he reported to work as a consultant on the undertaking of the Minister, Muhammad al-Mansuuri, that the authorization as consultant would soon be forthcoming.

This is the first case in which GOL has (almost) employed at its own expense a former USAID partially financed advisor. The Embassy enthusiastically welcomes this development and will exploit it to the full. We are also aware of its limitations. Mr. Thornton will have the role of consultant, not that of advisor. He stands outside the governmental machinery and chain of command as do the Institute of

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FORM DS-323 4-62

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY ☑ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: ECON:PFGeren/kb 9/13/66

Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM:JJBlake

Clearances:

DECLASSIFIED

Gas Technology, Arthur D. Little and other American consultants. This vantage affords neither the intimacy nor the responsibility of an advisor position. For example, the Embassy currently seeks to extend the services of USAID Advisor Arthur Auble in order that he may coordinate the preparation of the Second Five Year Development Plan, an opportunity which apparently will be available only to a person working within the GOL. Again, the Ministry of Industry's request for additional technicians under the partially financed USAID formula concerns the post of Department Heads within the Ministry, positions which cannot be filled by consultants. The Undersecretary, Abdul Aziz Kamal, wants Americans in his Ministry, reporting to his Directors General.

Another limitation is the time required to get a decision from the Council of Ministers approving a person as a consultant. In the Thomas Thornton case, the decision has been sought for four months and still has not been received. In the case of Arthur Auble we deal with a man whose present contract expires September 28, who has an advantageous offer from an American firm, who is interested to coordinate the preparation of the Second Five Year Plan but who cannot wait for several months while his case, were it otherwise eligible for a consultantship, is referred to the Council of Ministers.

Where there is any prospect that GOL may employ an American at its own expense, the Embassy will give enthusiastic support. Where such a consultantship is not possible, the Embassy will press for the means of topping off the salary which GOL can pay.

NEWSOM

DECLASSIFIED